

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION

OCTOBER 9, 2013

8:00PM

CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE

Council President Sandusky called the meeting to order and led the Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to the Register News for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 3, 2013; and advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 6, 2013.

ROLL CALL

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Ted Lovenduski, Paul Ostrander, David Woolston, Jerry Sandusky

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Administrator; Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Sandusky opened the meeting to the public.

Seeing no one wishing to be heard, MOTION was made by Lovenduski; seconded by Woolston, to close the public comments. Roll call vote – all ayes.

BUSINESS

Township Water and Sewer Engineer: Water Tower

Administrator Brook said Russell Trice, the Township Water and Sewer Engineer will be sending out bids for the water tower project toward the end of the year. The work will begin in the spring.

He said Engineer Trice has prepared the bond estimate for NFI, Building C. It is anticipated the work will begin in two weeks. There has been site work done, but foundation work will commence shortly.

Township Engineer: Road Program

Administrator Brook said Township Engineer Biegen has been working with Assistant Administrator Sahol and it should be ready to go to bid in December. Engineer Biegen has also been working with Mayor Wilkie on a couple of different projects.

Florence Township Council Executive Session 10/09/13

There were a few issues recently in the community that Engineer Biegen addressed. One was in the Manors at Crossroads concerning water that has been standing. He surveyed the area. He was also on Hamilton Avenue looking at different issues. He is very helpful with Open Public Records Act requests. There are many requests and he is very accommodating in getting copies of plans in a timely manner.

There was a homeowner having an issue with vibration from the NFI site. Engineer Beigen's inspector was responsive and went the next day to meet with the homeowner, talked to him and monitored the site. This is very important when a resident is expressing concern.

Assistant Administrator Sahol posted a rendering provided by the engineer of the parking lot at the end of Summer Street near the recreation fields. It will provide 46 parking spaces. The Recreation Committee discussed the plans Monday at its meeting and all members agreed that parking is an issue. The lot will be at the end of Summer Street and makes for a natural progression further down for expansion in the future. There will be 41 regular spots and five (5) handicapped spaces. Council Vice President Woolston inquired about the area between the Recycle Center and the Public Works building. There is not enough parking for employees. He suggested putting some parking in that area. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he has discussed the issue with Richard Pendle, Director of Public Works, and it is a work in progress. He discussed ideas for the lighting of the area.

Recreation/Park Area

Assistant Administrator Sahol presented a rendering of the plan to Mayor and Council. The plan was discussed by the Recreation Committee at its last meeting. The Township Engineer is currently reviewing. The police will review and Public Works has already reviewed the proposed plan. Mayor Wilkie explained the Environmental Protection Agency was part of the government shut down and could not even reply to e-mail. The deadline is supposed to be mid-November for approval. The park area will be on what is referred to as the slag area.. The proposed fence will be roughly where the construction fence is currently. From Second Avenue to Fifth Avenue is where there is an issue with heavy drainage. There is a drainage system being put in that runs all the way to Tenth Avenue. One concern is how to maintain it. The trees will be removed and there will be a gradual hill to the other side of the drainage system. At Ninth Avenue there is a 24 foot wide road that allows for tie in to the old recreation area.

Florence Township Council Executive Session 10/09/13

The road will go to the Second Avenue parking area. There is a walkway that runs along the top of the drainage pipe. Councilman Baldorossi wanted to make sure there will be police access to the area. Councilman Lovenduski would like to have the area opened as much as possible instead of fenced. There was discussion regarding the fence. Assistant Administrator Sahol said the Recreation Committee was concerned with the removal of the trees between Tenth and Fifth Avenues but the people in the Village realize the removal of the trees will improve the view. The Recreation Committee would like to see a gradual easing of the hillside rather than walling off the potential new park from the existing park. Mayor Wilkie said he and Council are waiting to hear from the Township Engineer and Police for input on the proposed recreation area. Mayor and Council all agree they want to have a safe picturesque park. Discussion of the plan will be on the November 6 agenda.

Public Comments

Council President Sandusky opened the meeting to the public.

Jack Ulmer, 200 West Front Street, inquired about the bridge on Route 130. He said nothing has been done since the boundaries were moved in the middle of August. It is blocking people from coming into Roebling. He wanted to know if anything will be done before the spring? Assistant Administrator Sahol said the Department of Transportation said the traffic pattern had to be adjusted because the utilities need to be moved. The state is now at the mercy of the utility company. It is frustrating to wait but once the lines are moved, the work will resume.

Joe Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, inquired about the earlier discussion regarding removing trees in Roebling. Mayor Wilkie explained that the plan is to make the hill more gradual, but the result would be that the trees would end up dying. That is the reason they need to be removed. Mr. Csik expressed concern about soil erosion. Mayor Wilkie assured him there will be measures taken to prevent erosion.

MOTION by Woolston, seconded by Ostrander to close public comment. Roll call vote - all ayes.

8:22 PM MOTION by Lovenduski; seconded by Woolston to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

8:22 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy M. Weiler, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk
/aek